



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Street Sweeping Debris Disposal and Management

Office of Land Quality Permits Branch

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100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Description:

- Sweeping roads, curbs, sidewalks and parking lots generates significant quantities of street sweeping debris that must be managed properly. This fact sheet describes the environmental regulations that apply to disposing, storing, processing, and using street sweeping debris.
- Street sweeping debris commonly includes litter, dirt, grass, leaves, and other vegetative matter. The sweeping debris may contain pollutants including oil and grease, metals, sediment, paint, solvents and automobile fluids, as well as phosphorus and nitrogen from vegetation, lawn fertilizer, and animal waste. During the winter, street sweeping debris may also contain snow and ice abrasives, such as salt, sand, steel mill slag, coal combustion slag and/or ash.
- Responsible management and use of street sweeping debris protects public health and the environment by preventing it from contaminating ground water, surface water or soil.
- This fact sheet describes potential uses of street sweeping debris as alternatives to disposal. It's important to contact IDEM for approval of such uses.

Disposal of Street Sweeping Debris:

- Municipalities and other entities that operate a program to collect debris from roads, streets, and other impervious surfaces should have a plan in place to properly dispose of the materials. If the entity is a designated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), the operator of the MS4 is required by their permit to have a program in place that includes written procedures for the proper disposal of waste or materials removed from separate storm sewer systems and operational areas. This includes street sweeping debris.
- Disposal in a municipal solid waste landfill (MSWLF) is the most common and appropriate disposal option. Street sweeping debris does not typically contain levels of contaminants or specially regulated substances that would make it ineligible for disposal in a MSWLF. Therefore, IDEM does not generally expect for a full waste determination with laboratory testing to be necessary unless the street sweeping debris originates from hazardous waste cleanup sites or areas where spills of hazardous substances have occurred.

Storage of Street Sweeping Debris:

- Street sweeping debris may be stored temporarily before disposal or use. Storage for more than six months may be considered disposal (See 329 IAC 10-2-181).
- Street sweeping debris should be stored either (1) in a covered container, or (2) on an impervious surface, covered with a waterproof material (i.e., tarpaulin or 10-mil plastic sheeting), and contained within the area (i.e., by berming the area). The containment must be maintained for the duration of the storage period to prevent contaminant volatilization, runoff, run-on, leaching or fugitive dust emissions.
- Storage should not occur in an area where the material will wash into wetlands or waterways.

Potential Uses for Street Sweeping Debris:

- Any use of street sweeping debris must comply with Indiana's Solid Waste Regulations (329 IAC 10 and 329 IAC 11). IDEM approval is required of the end user in almost all cases. End uses of street sweeping debris should be limited to industrial or commercial applications with little chance for human contact. Potential end uses include:

- In composting, as a bulking agent. A composting facility accepting street sweeping debris must have a valid permit from the IDEM Solid Waste Permits Section. The permit will require periodic testing to verify the safety of the finished compost.
- Use as an alternative daily cover (ADC) at a landfill. The landfill must be approved to accept the material as an ADC, which may require a modification of its permit.
- Other uses may be approved through a Legitimate Use Approval from IDEM's Industrial Waste Compliance Section, if the use does not pose a threat to human health and the environment.
- Street sweeping debris cannot be used as a fill material in standing water, in karst terrain, or as general fill because of the potential for human and environmental contact.

Screening Street Sweeping Debris:

- Some approved end uses may require MSW and other solid waste to be screened out of the street sweeping debris. Materials such as metal, paper or glass may be recycled where appropriate. The screening activity requires a solid waste processing facility permit unless it is conducted on city or town-owned or leased property.

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operation vital to a prosperous economy.
- The program is overseen by IDEM's Industrial Waste Compliance Section and Solid Waste Permits Section.

Additional Information:

- Environmental requirements are established by the Environmental Rules Board and implemented by IDEM. State requirements are based upon federal requirements and protect both human health and the environment.
- For additional information regarding Indiana's Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulations or the Legitimate Use Program, please contact IDEM's Industrial Waste Compliance Section at (317) 234-6951.
- Other IDEM or federal rules, such as those related to storm water, may apply to the storage and/or processing of street sweeping debris. Please contact IDEM's Storm Water Program at (317) 232-8670 for information regarding storm water regulations, resource materials, and programs.